

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-11 RSC-01 IO-14

ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 EB-11 DRC-01 /179 W

----- 089278

R 070530Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1279

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COLUMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

USINT CAIRO

USUN 0053

CINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T ABU DHAHI 0126

DEPT PASS OTHER ACTION POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK, IO, TC

SUBJ: NOTIFICATION OF DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION PLANS

REF: A. STATE 022764

B. STATE 22617 AND PREVIOUS

1. CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTELS RE COORDINATION
WITH BRIT COLLEAGUE, AMB MCCARTHY, IN ORDER TO INFORM UAEG

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OF US-UK AGREEMENT FOR EXPANSION OF MILITARY FACILITY ON DIEGO

GARCIA ISLAND.

2. FOLLOWING IS PRECIS OF PRIORITY CABLE SENT BY AMB MCCARTHY FEB 5 TO FOREIGN OFFICE, INFO WASH, ISLAMABAD, DELHI, COLUMBO, SINGAPORE, TEHRAN, KUWAIT, JIDDA AND UK MISSION NEW YORK. MCCARTHY'S CABLE IS SUCCINCT REPORT OF ACTION JOINTLY TAKEN TO DATE TO INFORM UAEG.

3. QUOTE: MY US COLLEAGUE AND I AGREED THAT BEST COURSE WOULD BE LOW-KEY ORAL PRESENTATION. WE SHOULD ADOPT POSTURE OF INFORMING UAEG, OUT OF COURTESY, OF DECISION WHICH MIGHT BE OF SOME INTEREST, BUT NOT OF DIRECT CONCERN TO THEM. WE WISH TO AVOID SUGGESTION THAT WE APPREHENSIVE OF UAEG'S REACTION TO DEVELOPMENT, WHICH AFTER ALL WAS BUSINESS OF US AND UK GOVERNMENTS. THEREFORE, WE DECIDED I SHOULD SPEAK TO ACTING FORMIN GHUBASH ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: A. RECALL INFORMATION OF BRIT-INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY, THE US/UK AGREEMENT ABOUT DIEGO GARCIA AND AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO THIS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF US NAVAL COMMO FACILITIES. B. REMARK THAT TERMINATION OF VIETNAM WAR HAD NOW ENABLED US NAVY TO RESUME EXERCISE OF WORLD-WIDE MOVEMENTS ON FREE HIGH-SEAS, A MOVEMENT WHICH ROYAL NAVY ALSO EXERCISED. C. OBSERVE THAT MODERN NAVAL FORCES WERE LARGELY SELF CONTAINED BUT COULD STILL USE BACK-UP SHORE FACILITIES IN AREAS FAR FROM HOME. D. NOTE SOVIET NAVY INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA AND OBSERVE THAT REOPENING OF SUEZ CANAL MUST BE EXPECTED TO FACILITATE SUCH ACTIVITY. E. PARLIAMENT AND CONGRESS WOULD NOW BE INFORMED THAT US/UK HAD DECIDED UNDER THEIR BASIC AGREEMENT THAT US NAVAL COMMO FACILITY COULD NOW BE EXPANDED AND IMPROVE HARBOR, AIRSTRIP AND STORAGE FACILITIES. F. CONCLUDE THAT MY US COLLEAGUE COULD BE ASKED ABOUT ANY DETAILS IF UAEG WISHED KNOW MORE. G. PLAY ANY COMMENT OR QUESTIONS BY EAR ON BASIS OF BRIEFING PROVIDED BY MY US COLLEAGUE AND GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY FCO.

4. QUOTE MCCARTHY MET GHUBASH FEB 5 MAKING IT CLEAR HE WAS DOING SO ON INSTRUCTION. GHUBASH REMARKED THAT HE HAD SEEN
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SPECULATION ABOUT DIEGO GARCIA BASE EXPANSION IN PRESS. HE ADDED JOCARLY THAT HE HAD ALSO SEEN HAYKAL'S ARTICLE IN AL-AHRAM ALLEGING AMERICAN CONTINGENCY PLAN TO TAKE OVER AN ARAB PRODUCING COUNTRY. GHUBASH STATED HIS UNDERSTANDING FOR MCCARTHY'S PRESENTATION, BUT WONDERED WHETHER EFFECT WOULD BE RUSSIAN BUILD-UP IN REACTION-NOTING SOVS ALREADY HAD CREATED FACILITIES OMASOCOTRA ISLAND. MCCARTHY NOTED US MERELY RESUMING NORMAL PRACTICE AND SEEKING SOME ADDITIONAL

SHORE FACILITIES. SOVS HAD ALREADY BUILT UP AND THEREFORE, HAD NO REASON TO PRETEND THAT THEY NEEDED TO REACT.

5. QUOTE GHUBASH NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT UN DEBATES WHEN THE UAEG VOTED (OF COURSE) FOR GA RESOLUTIONS SPONSORED BY CEYLON. AMB REPLIED THAT HE REGRETTED GHUBASH NOT PRESENT TO HEAR BRIT STATEMENTS ON THAT SUBJECT. UK NOT OPPOSED TO DETENTE WHERE THIS COULD BE GENUINELY SECURED, BUT CONCEPT OF NEUTRALIZING AN ENORMOUS AREA IMPOSSIBLE OF DEFINITION, PARTICULARLY AT T*ME WH*N SOVS HAD INTRODUCED A NEW MILITARY FACTOR THERE, WAS UNREALISTIC. GHUBASH DID NOT REACT TO MCCARTHY'S SUGGESTION THAT HE SEEK FURTHER EXPLANATION FROM US COLLEAGUE. MCCARTHY. UNQUOTE

6. AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATION MCCARTHY AND I HAVE AGREED THAT I SHOULD MAKE EVEN LOWER-KEY FOLLOW-ON PRESENTATION TO GHUBASH. HAVE APPT WITH MINSTATE FEB 7 AND WILL REPORT HIS REACTION. GRIFFIN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ANY OTHER POSTS.

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Message Attributes

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